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A New Species of an *Achias*-like Fly from Nicaragua, apparently belonging to the little-known genus *Plagiocephalus* (Diptera : Ortalidae).

By E. T. CRESSON, JR.

Among the material collected by Mr. Wharton Huber on the Nicaraguan Expedition of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in the spring of 1922, was found a specimen of the curious pseudo-stalked-eyed flies, which upon close examination proved to be quite distinct from *Achias* and its allies. An examination of the literature relative to species of *Achias* soon established the similarity of this fly to the figure

of *Plagiocephalus lobularis*, given in Wiedemann's 1830 paper. That species was the only known *Achias*-like dipteran, excepting some species of the drosophilid genus *Zygothrica* occurring in the New World, which fact makes the finding of the present species all the more interesting. I give below a rather full description, in absent of detailed illustrations, endeavoring to include all characteristics of specific and generic importance.

PLAGIOCEPHALUS Wied.

1830. Wiedemann, *Achias*, 12. pl. ii. f. 1a-b.

1843. Macquart, *Dipt. Exot.*, ii (3), 213.

1873. Loew, *Mon. Dipt. N. A.* iii, 26.

1880. Osten-Sacken, *An. Mus. Civ. St. Genova*, xvi, 478.

1909. Hendel, *Gen. Ins.*, fasc. 96, 47.

1911. Hendel, *Gen. Ins.*, fasc. 113, 52.

This genus was erected for *Achias lobularis* Wied., a well marked species described from Brazil, but which apparently has not been seen since its discovery. Consequently, and in part owing to the insufficiently characterized description, the position of the genus has been little understood. Prior to Loew's and Osten Sacken's papers above cited, the genus had been associated with *Achias*, but Hendel following their suggestions, placed it in the ortalid subfamily Richardinae.

That the present species is closely related to *lobularis* is certain, but I have doubts as to it being congeneric. The fact that it has a distinctly plumose arista (that of *lobularis* being bare) alone suggests generic distinction and, furthermore, this may be substantiated by other characteristics not mentioned in the descriptions of *lobularis*. However, in the absence of more knowledge of *lobularis*, I hesitate to erect another genus for the present species. The pedal structure and the venation of *lobularis* may offer some valid generic characteristics, but one is guided only by the general figure of that species in these respects.

That the present species is a member of the Richardinae, is evident by the following characteristics: Vibrissa absent; median part of face flattened with a distinct transverse sulcus above the projecting epistoma; sutural impressions of mesonotum oblique; two pairs of post-dorso-centrals; mesopleural bristles well de-

veloped, but there are no propleurals nor sternopleural. Auxiliary vein entering costa slightly beyond branch of second and third veins, at which point the first vein is thickened and nearly contiguous with the auxiliary vein; first vein short and bare; anal cell short with its cross-vein convex, without acute lower angle. Abdomen rather slender basally.

Plagiocephalus huberi new species

Yellow; third antennal segment above, a transverse stripe on head above from eye to eye, including frontal bristles and ocellar tubercle, a similar stripe on occiput from eye to neck, including inner and outer verticals, brown. Mesonotum dark brown to black, opaque, marked with golden pollinose design as follows: a broad median stripe extending nearly to base of scutellum, then laterally, including postalar callus, then anteriorly, emarginated at suture and including humerus. There is also a vertical golden stripe over mesopleura but not including the shining sternopleura, a spot of same color on metapleura and a stripe below halteres. Scutellum sordid, sparingly golden pollinose. Metanotum dark with median pale vertical stripe. Pleura pale with dark vertical stripe behind prostigma and another before poststigma. Halteres nearly white. Abdomen (much shrunken and deformed) is dark with first segment and a median stripe on second and third, also lateral apical angles of second, pale. Legs entirely yellow but apices of tarsi darker. Wings yellow with pale veins immaculate but faintly longitudinally infuscated in first posterior cell.

Structurally, in general habitus, similar to Wiedemann's figure, but the head more slender as in Macquart's figure. Ocelli well developed, bristles strong and parallel and situated behind line of anterior ocellus; post-verticals divergent; inner verticals situated slightly beyond line of humeri, while the outer verticals are about midway between the former and the eyes; one frontal situated slightly beyond line of inner verticals; all these bristles well developed. Lunular margin straight, distinct to eyes where it becomes carinate, and the eyes are angular at that place. Antennae close together; third segment three times as long as second, and three times as long as broad, rounded apically; arista longer than third segment, shortly but distinctly plumose to tip. Face subopaque, medianly flattened; facialia produced laterally in form of a triangle, evanescent slightly beyond line of frontal bristle; no vibrissae or setulae on face. Epistoma concave, narrow but prominent, with a distinct transverse sulcus above; clypeus narrow, short, not as broad as the oral opening. Proboscis short; palpi broadly scapulate apically.

Thorax robust, as broad as long; fore coxae not attaining base of middle ones; all bristles strong. Mesonotum yellow setulose; two post-

dorso-centrals; two post-alars; one supra-alar; one presutural; one humeral; two noto-pleurals; one meso-pleural, and some pale hairs on the posterior margin and on the golden stripe. Scutellum triangular, flattened, with two diverging apical and one lateral bristles. Legs rather robust, especially hind femora. Fore legs without dorsal bristles, but with pale hairs; middle femora with few short flexor bristles and a pre-apical on tibiae; hind femora thickened, with stout flexor spines and several slender extensor bristles, without preapical on tibiae. Squamathoracalis linear; squama-alaris small with long pale cilia.

Abdomen much shrunken and impossible of critical description.

Wings 8 mm. long. Costal cell narrow; auxiliary vein entering costa at break; no costal spine; stigmal area short; first vein bare, short, ending far before line of ante-cross-vein; second vein long; second costal section about three times as long as third. Third and fourth veins bare, converging so that first posterior cell is considerably narrowed apically; ante-cross-vein perpendicular, beyond middle of discal cell; ultimate section of fourth vein three times as long as preceding section; post-cross-vein straight, perpendicular; anal cell not longer than second basal, and its cross-vein convex, rounding into sixth vein. Alula moderate. Length.—8 mm. width of head 10 mm.

Type.—♂? Eden, Nicaragua, 14°-0'N., 84°-26'W., May 17, 1922, (Wharton Huber, [A. N. S. P., No. 6284.]

An Interesting New Species of the Genus *Melanoplus* from Central Georgia (Orthoptera, Acrididae).

By MORGAN HEBARD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In June of the present year, Dr. Henry Fox, for the first time, examined a small upland grove, three miles east of Macon, Georgia, and about a mile north of a spot locally known as "Cross-Keys." He there secured eight specimens of a short-winged member of the genus *Melanoplus*, which represent a previously unknown species. This insect is described below and we take great pleasure in naming it in honor of Dr. Fox, whose observations and studies in the Orthoptera show a thoroughness, accuracy and scientific concept which places them with the most important contemporary contributions.

Melanoplus foxi new species. Text figures 1 and 2.

This insect is nearest *M. strumosus* Morse, being one of the species of the Puer Group having broadly oval tegmina, dull glaucous caudal tibiae and a truncate prosternal spine. Further agreement with *strumosus* is found in the general form, the